

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 29, 2015

CONTACT: Tamra Ingersoll, 623-930-2964, Public Information Office

Super Bowl Brings Trees to Sahuaro Ranch Park ***Volunteer dig deep and help plant new fruit trees throughout park***

Glendale, Ariz. — Glendale's Got Game -- and green! Volunteers planted nearly 50 fruit trees during the Super Bowl XLIX Tree Planting Event & Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Saturday, Jan. 24, in Glendale's historic Sahuaro Ranch Park at 9802 N. 59th Ave.

Kicking off with a 9 a.m. opening ceremony, the three-hour event was a partnership between the National Football League, the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee, Super Bowl sponsor Verizon, the City of Glendale Community Services Group, NFL cheerleaders representing several of the Pro Bowl teams, and nearly 250 volunteers. Participants added 48 new fruit trees to the park's historic orchards, including grapefruit, apricot, tangelo, lemon, pear, and nectarine.

Volunteers also picked 20 bins of citrus fruit for donation to St. Mary's Food Bank, while the "Deadheaders," a Partners N' Parks volunteer group, planted 150 new rose bushes, generously donated by Francis Nurseries, in the historic rose garden. Walgreen's Store #03049 and Dunkin Donuts provided free water and snacks for the event.

"This investment in new fruit trees at Sahuaro Ranch Historic Area will support many aspects of community life for Glendale residents and visitors for many years to come," said of Glendale's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Senior Recreation Coordinator Michelle Yates.

This marked the fifth and final tree planting project leading up to Super Bowl XLIX. A total of 170 trees have been planted in five city parks in Tempe, Mesa, Phoenix and Glendale over the past nine months. Contributing to the "greening" of Super Bowl XLIX, this initiative marks the 10th anniversary of the NFL's Super Bowl Urban Forestry Program.

Sahuaro Ranch is a 17-acre park listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more than a century, it has been known as the "Showplace of the Valley." Since the original planting of the groves between 1890 and 1940, many trees have died, making projects like this essential to its maintenance. The park provides 50 tons of fruit each season to the St. Mary's Food Bank as well as recreation and relaxation to thousands of community members and visitors every year. Learn more about the park at <http://www.glendaleaz.com/ParksandRecreation/SahuaroRanchPark.cfm>.

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